

AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues - With Pros and Cons

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 23

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FEBRUARY 27, 1956

Here and Abroad

People — Places — Events

SPEED LIMIT

Seven out of ten adults favor equipping passenger cars with a device that would limit their top speed to 60 miles an hour. This was indicated in a recent Gallup Poll. A cross-section of adults throughout the country was questioned on the matter.

PEAK ENROLLMENT

Over 2,700,000 students are enrolled in the nation's colleges—more than in any past year. There are more men students (1,784,000) than women (937,000). The University of California, with an enrollment of 38,594, has the most students.

100TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Victoria Cross—Great Britain's highest award for bravery against an enemy. The medal is the equivalent of our Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest decoration given by the United States government. The Victoria Cross has been awarded to 1,347 persons.

STUDENT CONCERTS

The thousands of high school students expected to visit Washington, D. C., this spring will be treated to free concerts by the National Symphony Orchestra. The concerts, called "Music for Young America," are scheduled daily from April 27 through May 30. For further information or tickets, write to Ralph Black, National Symphony Orchestra, 1779 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Requests for tickets should be made as soon as possible.

GREEKS STILL WITH US

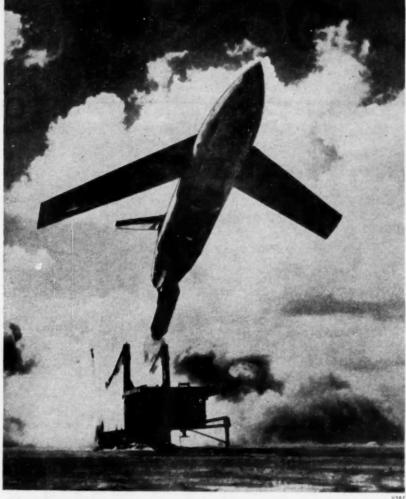
As a result of elections about a week ago, it appears that the Greek government will continue to cooperate with the Western powers. The party supporting Premier Constantine Karamanlis won a majority of seats in parliament. The Premier is a good friend of the United States and our allies. His opponents, some of whom are communists, managed to win 140 out of 300 parliamentary seats—but not quite enough to give them control.

SECRET OFFICES

Congress and the Supreme Court are considering plans to establish centers away from Washington where they may move in case of an attack on the capital city. The President and his assistants already have secret offices which they may use in wartime.

TOP NEWS IN DENMARK

President Eisenhower has been big news in Denmark for 5 years. One of the country's largest newspapers, *Poli*tiken, recently added up the number of times it has mentioned prominent persons in its columns. The President led the count 4 times since 1951.



THE MATADOR-an Air Force guided missile-roars away from its launcher

Our Guided Missiles

United States and Russia Race to Build Long-Range Rockets
That Can Carry Hydrogen Explosives

ROCKETS and jet-powered flying missiles have been the subject of a big dispute in our nation's capital during recent weeks. Senator Stuart Symington of Missouri, a former Secretary of the Air Force, declares that Russia is "ahead of us in the development of long-range missiles." Certain other leaders agree with him, and Georgi Zhukov, Soviet defense minister, says his country has "mighty guided missiles."

President Eisenhower and his supporters deny that Russia is winning the missile race. Eisenhower says Moscow may be leading us in certain respects, but he believes we are ahead of Russia in other phases of this vital contest.

Exactly what kind of weapon is involved? What does a "missile" accomplish?

According to the dictionary, a missile is anything that can be thrown or projected so as to strike a distant object. A rifle bullet is a type of missile, by this definition, and so is an arrow. But when present-day military men use the term, they refer to rockets or jet-propelled craft that fly—pilotless—against enemy targets.

American infantrymen employed small, short-range missiles during World War II, firing them from "bazooka" rocket-launchers. Near the end of that same conflict, nazi Germany shot huge "V-2" rockets at Britain from launching sites on the European continent.

Rockets and other missiles, though, didn't play so decisive a role in World War II as they would in any conflict that might occur now. We and other countries have come a long way in the development of such weapons during the last dozen years.

Take, for instance, the Army's rocket Nike, named after the Greek goddess of victory. This weapon is designed to protect our cities and military installations against enemy bombers. In many parts of the United States, batteries of Nike missiles stand ready for instant action. Miraculous radar devices control the launching of this rocket, and guide it toward the target. Nike reportedly can travel about 20 miles from its launching site to destroy an enemy plane.

Also, the Army has several rockets for use against enemy ground troops and fortifications. Among these are

(Concluded on page 2)

Italy's Top Man Pays Us a Visit

President Gronchi and U. S.
Chief Executive Are to
Confer This Week

TODAY — February 27 — President Giovanni Gronchi of Italy is scheduled to arrive in the United States. At the invitation of President Eisenhower, he will spend several days in Washington. It will mark the first time that an Italian head of state has ever visited our country.

In his discussions with our President, Mr. Gronchi will be able to paint a fairly bright picture of recent developments inside Italy. That Mediterranean nation has been experiencing good times in the past year. In fact, the boot-shaped country in southern Europe is more prosperous today than at any other time since World War II.

Most of Italy's factories are turning out goods at a fast clip. The iron, steel, cement, and chemical industries are booming. Production of automobiles, tractors, and typewriters is at record levels. During 1955, industrial output rose by about 10 per cent—one of the highest gains in all of free Europe.

The past year was a good one for farming, too. The wheat crop was 20 per cent bigger than in 1954. When final figures are in, they will probably show that the harvest was the best in history.

The mild boom being experienced by Italy is making life a bit better for the average citizen. Factory workers are now considerably better off than they were before World War II. People are eating more, and are able to dress a little better. In the past 2 years, numerous families have been able to buy automobiles or motor scooters.

But before one concludes that the Italians are living in luxury these days, this fact should be made plain: the average Italian has an income of about \$410 a year. That compares to an average annual income of more than \$1,700 in the United States.

At first glance, Italy's present economic upswing and the low income of her people seem inconsistent. Actually they are not. What they indicate is that this Mediterranean land has had hard sledding for a long time. Even with last year's encouraging progress, her living standards are still far behind those of the United States and various other nations.

Many of Italy's troubles of the past 10 years stem from World War II. The country was a major theater of war where American troops and our allies fought the Germans. Thousands of homes were smashed to rubble, and one-third of the country's roads were destroyed. Bridges, railroad lines, and canals were made useless in many areas. About 750,000 children were left without schools.

(Continued on page 6)

Nations Racing to Develop New Missiles

(Concluded from page 1)

the Corporal and Honest John. They can do a job similar to that of heavy, long-range artillery-hurling big charges of atomic and other explosives.

A number of U.S. Navy vessels are equipped to fire an antiaircraft missile, the Terrier. Meanwhile, Navy scientists hope to develop a rocket that our submarines can launch from beneath the ocean's surface. A hidden submarine could carry such a missile close to enemy shores and make a damaging surprise attack.

Some of our Air Force fighter planes carry a missile known as the Falcon, for use against enemy aircraft. When released, this swift "bird" guides itself to its prey by radar.

Another new Air Force weapon is the unpiloted jet Matador, now available to our men in West Germany. Guided and controlled by delicate electric instruments, the Matador can carry atomic explosives several hundred miles behind enemy lines. But, while it flies at approximately the speed of sound, it is much slower than the long-range missiles we hope to build in the future.

"Redstone"

U.S. scientists and engineers want to develop a "bird" which will fly hundreds or even thousands of miles at a speed many times faster than sound, and which can be guided accurately to its destination. So far as is publicly known, our best achievement along this line at present is the Army's Redstone, developed from the old German V-2. This 60-foot rocket can be guided accurately to targets more than 200 miles from its launching site. It travels many times faster than the speed of

Army experts believe the Redstone can eventually be made effective for distances up to 1,500 miles. Other scientists, meanwhile, are trying to develop a missile that would travel 5,000 miles in about 30 minutes, carrying a hydrogen bomb.

What would be the advantages of these long-range missiles, in comparison with present-day jet bombers?

The missiles' main advantage: their speed. Because of it, they would be ideal weapons for surprise attack, and they would be extremely hard to shoot down. None of the V-2 missiles that Germany fired against Britain during World War II were intercepted. If the V-2's had been carrying atomic explosives, they could practically have destroyed England.

Scientists think it may be possible, eventually, to develop swift defensive rockets that can attack long-range guided missiles and explode them in the air. But certainly it will be far more difficult for a nation to defend itself against missiles than against planes. Moreover, human pilots are not needed to operate missiles.

Observers feel that any country which takes a substantial lead in the development of long-range missilesof "birds" that can fly 1,500 miles or more-will hold a big advantage in the present world struggle for power.

Who is really ahead in the missile race, Russia or the United States?

This is a bitterly disputed question. As we have already noted, Democratic Senator Symington of Missouri insists one powerful enough to make the whole that Russia is leading in the longrange missile field. Symington and other lawmakers call attention to recent reports that Moscow has already tested an 800-mile rocket. Democratic Senator Henry Jackson of Washington adds: "There is danger that the Soviets may fire a 1,500-mile missile before the end of this year-1956."

Launched from bases on Soviet-controlled or Red Chinese territory, says Jackson, such a missile could reach "all of Western Europe, all of North

world understand that an attack upon us or our allies, by any nation, would be suicidal."

In reply, President Eisenhower's supporters give several arguments:

"First," they say, "it isn't true that we are being outdistanced by the Soviet Union. Our nation is still ahead of Russia in over-all military power, and we plan to stay ahead.

"Critics of America's present defense policy seem to ignore our fleet of swift and powerful jet planes, which

denly stop everything else' and devote our entire defense effort to missiles alone. A good balance in our armed forces has always been necessary and it remains important today."

There are some strong differences of opinion within the Defense Department as to how the missiles program should be carried out, and as to how well it is progressing. For one thing, there are rivalries among the different armed services over the role that each should play in creating new projectiles. Disputes about missile development were partly responsible for the resignation, early this month, of Air Force Assistant Secretary Trevor

What are some of the big technical problems that our missile experts

One important question is this: How is the missile to be guided? Directing an unpiloted projectile to a city several hundred or several thousand miles away is no easy task. Only through the miraculous electronic devices of modern science can it be done at all. Especially amazing is the steering system of the Navaho, a combination rocket and jet-propelled missile that the Air Force hopes to build. This pilotless projectile would fly 5,000 miles, at a 50-mile altitude, guiding itself by the stars day or night.

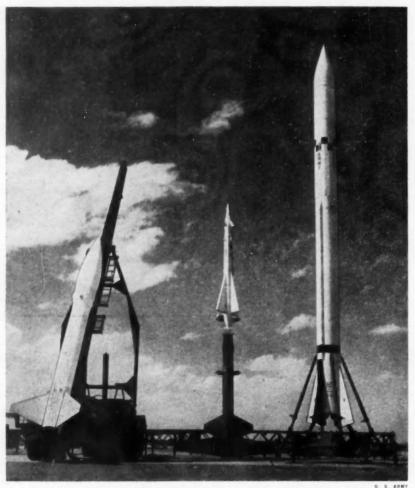
Friction

Another major problem is the friction that would develop between any high-speed projectile and the atmosphere. For instance, look at the proposed Air Force rocket ICBM (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile). Most of its 5,000-mile flight is to be in outer space, about 500 miles from the earth's surface. But when the ICBM re-enters our atmosphere, at a speed of thousands of miles per hour, friction with the air will generate terrific heat.

This heat burns up most meteors before they can reach the earth, and it will likewise destroy the rocket unless special protective measures can be devised. Scientists feel confident that they will solve this problem, though they don't yet know how.

Our nation's safety may depend, to a large extent, on how well and how rapidly such problems can be overcome.

-By Tom Myer



FAMILY of missiles used by the Army. Honest John (left) is an artillery missile, and can carry atomic explosives against land targets. The Nike (center) can be shot into the air to attack enemy planes. The Corporal (right) is a long-range missile designed for use against surface targets.

Africa and the Middle East, most of South and Southeast Asia, the Philippines, Formosa, Okinawa, Korea, and

The argument of Jackson, Symington, and their supporters continues along this line:

"When Russia develops a missile that will travel 1,500 miles or more, most of our allies and most of our overseas air bases will lie within that projectile's range. If we hold no similar weapon by then, the Soviets may be willing to risk a hydrogen attack against Western Europe and other parts of the free world.

"Seeing such a danger, our allies would be afraid to stay united with us in opposition to Russia. If Moscow demanded that they abandon such alliances as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, they would feel forced to do so. Russia could thus take rapid strides toward her goal of world domination.

"To prevent this, the United States must make an all-out effort to recapture the lead in long-range guided missiles. We must always have weapcan-if necessary-carry hydrogen bombs to Moscow and other Russian cities. Regardless of the advances which may occur in long-range missile development, Russia knows that our jet planes could bring ruin and atomic death to her land. She couldn't stop all of them. Many of the planes, probably a majority, would get through her defenses and bomb her cities.

"The field of guided missiles is a very broad one. It involves the solution of many kinds of problems-how best to propel the missiles, how to guide them, and so on. We can't be sure that America is ahead of Russia on every single problem in the field. But we are working as rapidly as possible, and could do even better if more scientists were available.

"President Eisenhower asked Congress to provide nearly 1.3 billion dollars in new funds to spend on missiles next year. This is 30 per cent more than the amount being spent in the current year. Our government is not loafing on the missiles job.

"But, as President Eisenhower recently commented, we mustn't 'sud-

Pronunciations

Antonio Segni-an-tö'nyō se'nyē Bao Dai-bou di (ou as in out)

Cambodia-kām-bō'dǐ-uh

Cholon-shaw-lawn

Constantine Karamanlis—kŏn'stăn-tēn care'uh-man-lēs'

Francisco Franco-fran-thes'ko

Georgi Zhukov-gě-awr'gi zhoo'kôf Giovanni Gronchi-jō-vān'ně gron'kê

Giuseppe Garibaldi—joo-zép'pā gā'rē-bāl'dē

Guy Mollet-ge mō-lâ'

Hanoi-hā-noi

Laos—lä'öz Nehru-ne'roo

Ngo Dinh Diem-nyô' dĭn' dē-ĕm'

Nike-ni'kë

Nikita Khrushchev-nyi-kë'tuh kroosh-

Piazza Venezia-pyäťsä vá-ně'tsyä Saigon—sî-gŏn' Viet Nam-ve-et' nam'

Your Vocabulary

In each sentence below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are on page 8, column 4.

1. The senator alleged (a-lejd') that his proposal would save the taxpayers' money. (a) proved (b) stated positively (c) hinted (d) believed.

2. The ambassadors agreed on the contractual (kon-trak'tû'l) arrange-(a) detailed (b) minor (c) ment. specific (d) formal and legal.

3. A tripartite (trî-par'tit) treaty is one involving (a) 3 parties (b) 3 sections, (c) 3 problems (d) 3 dictators.

4. A good government official will always attempt to rectify (rek'ti-fi) his mistakes. (a) explain (b) avoid repeating (c) correct (d) remember.

5. This particular ruler attempted to bludgeon (blŭj'ŭn) his people into following his wishes. (a) force and beat (b) argue (c) urge (d) bribe.

6. The people attempted to escape from the malice (mal'is) of their dictator. (a) control (b) authority (c) bitterness and ill will (d) brutality and cruel punishment.

7. The envoy's mission ended in a fiasco (fe-as'ko). (a) definite agreement (b) partial success (c) disagreement (d) complete failure.

8. Britain's dominion (do-min'yun) in world affairs means her (a) power (b) stakes (c) position (d) group of allies.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PUZZLE

Fill in numbered vertical rows accord-g to descriptions given below. When I are correctly finished, heavy rectangle ill spell the name of a political figure in the news.

1. U.S. and other spending their money in Italy, help that land to earn a living.

2. Capital of New York.

3. ____ was the first land to use long-distance missiles in war.

4. Small independent state in Rome.

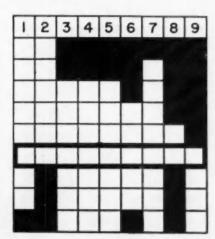
5. Italy's President.

6. Italy's Premier.

7. The ____ is probably our longest-range high-speed missile now.

___ Valley is Italy's best

9. Missile for defending our cities is called the



Last Week

HORIZONTAL: Mao Tse-Tung. VERTI-CAL: 1. Quemoy; 2. heart; 3. coal; 4. Britain; 5. Russia; 6. textile; 7. Taiwan; 8. Columbia; 9. cancer; 10. sugar.





ALISTAIR COOKE (left) is host on Omnibus, a CBS-TV program. James Cagney, the movie star, is a narrator on NBC's radio show Today and Tomorrow,

Radio-TV-Movies

ONE of the nation's basic problems is being studied on a special series of broadcasts by the NBC radio network. The Wednesday evening series, entitled "Today and Tomorrow, deals with conservation of our natural resources.

The programs are recorded throughout the United States and Canada to show how various communities are meeting their conservation problems. Shows will be devoted to stories of flood-control in Kansas, of petroleum conservation in the Texas oil fields, and of a battle to save forests in Canada. Movie star James Cagney, who operates 2 large farms, is narrator for these special broadcasts.

Music fans should tune in the Mutual Broadcasting System Saturday afternoon radio program, "Symphonies for Youth." This show fea-This show features Dr. Alfred Wallenstein conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. The music is specially selected to appeal to young people.

"Symphonies for Youth" is in its

12th season on the air. The program has won several citations and awards since it began in 1945.

"Omnibus," a Sunday afternoon CBS television program, combines education and entertainment. Now in its 4th year on the air, the series has won many top awards.

Viewers of "Omnibus" have seen number of outstanding modern plays, conversations with famous persons, and trips to various countries of the world to see how people in other lands work and play.

Television will be used next month to provide additional training for dentists in 6 mid-western cities. University of Illinois will conduct this special televised series. Faculty members in Chicago will demonstrate their techniques on 4 programs. Practicing dentists in Cleveland, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Chicago will watch over special closedcircuit TV -By VICTOR BLOCK

Readers Say-

The people of the United States should not be taken in by Russia's outwardly friendly moves, such as the recent offer to sign a 20-year friendship treaty. We should never forget communism's main goal—to take over the world by any means possible.

ROLAND BOWERS, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Parents should give their children more of their time. They should try to understand the problems that teen-agers face, and assist their children in working out solutions. This would help promote understanding between parents and young people, and reduce juvenile delinquency.

NANCI LILLIE, Cumberland, Wisconsin

I think we should aid India with her economic problems in order to strengthen her against communism. If we do not show India that we can be helpful and friendly, she will accept communist aid and, eventually, communist control.

GORDON SPIDAHL, Starkweather, North Dakota

We should not extend a great deal of assistance to India. If that country is going to turn to communism, she will do so no matter how much we help her.

Judie Martin, Alamogordo, New Mexico

President Eisenhower's plan for a "soil bank" is an excellent idea. This will reduce farm surpluses and also give a rest to overworked land. This "stored land" can always be put back into use in an emergency.

JACOB WURZEL, JACOB WURZEL, Cook, Minnesota

The "soil bank" plan is a good suggestion, but some system must be set up so small farmers do not suffer. Big farmers who plant most of the surplus products should set aside soil, not the small farmer who needs all his land.

L. ELAINE SHEARER, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

I do not think the "soil bank" is a wise plan. In effect, the government would be paying farmers to do nothing. Many people in the world are hungry. We should be producing food to help them, not paying our farmers to grow less.

JOHN GILL, Chicago, Illinois

[We wish to thank our readers for their letters to this column. We are sorry that there is not space enough to print them all. If your first or second letter does not appear, keep writing until one is published. All letters are read by the editorial staff whose members gain ideas from them. 1

Science in the News

A NEW way has been found to pre-serve rare books and other written material in a minimum of space. Pages are photographed and reproduced on small cards called "Microcards." As many as 50 written or printed pages can be reproduced on a single card 3 by 5 inches. The cards are read through special viewers.

Some scientists at Stanford University in California have built a new instrument that can measure the proton, 1 of the tiny particles that make up the center of the atom. They found the proton of the hydrogen atom to have a diameter of 30-quadrillionths of an inch.

This is the first time the size of the particle has been determined, because previous devices could not make such small measurements.

Astronomers using a large telescope at Lowell Observatory in Arizona have measured the length of Pluto's "day." That planet, the most distant from the sun, makes 1 complete turn on its axis in a little more than 6 of our days.

The rate of rotation could not be learned by watching surface features because Pluto is too far away. Instead, the scientists measured the brightness of certain areas on Pluto and waited for them to appear again as the planet turned.

This discovery of Pluto's slow speed of rotation has led some astronomers to believe the planet once revolved around Neptune instead of around the sun-making it a satellite rather than a planet.

Bridges and buildings of glass are 2 scientific dreams still to be realized. Thus far the industry has been able to create glass only 1 per cent as strong as it can eventually be made.

Oscar Burch, head of research at a large company, reports that when scientists can make glass at least 10 per cent of its possible strength, the material will be stronger than steel, yet much lighter. Scientists predict that other developments will include glass auto bodies and airships, as well as glass coverings over communities in certain areas to provide controlled -By VICTOR BLOCK

AMERICAN OBSERVER

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The Story of the Wee



ITALIAN President Giovanni Gronchi



ANTONIO SEGNI, Italy's Premier

Gronchi and Segni

Italy's President Giovanni Gronchi is scheduled to arrive in the United States today, February 27. He will visit with President Eisenhower and other top government officials (see page 1 story) before going on a brief tour of certain American cities. Then he will return home to report on his visit here to Italy's Premier Antonio Segni.

Gronchi, 68, began his 7-year term as Italian president last April. Before taking over that post, he was a member of the Italian legislature and he held other important government offices.

As president, Gronchi has only minor official duties to perform. Premier Segni directs the country's affairs. Nevertheless, Gronchi has considerable political influence at home and is highly regarded abroad.

Gronchi first became an official of the Christian Democratic Party, of which he is now a leader, at the age of 15. When Mussolini and his fascist followers ruled Italy between 1922 and 1943, Gronchi led an underground movement against the dictatorship.

Segni, 65, is premier in Italy's 17th postwar government. He took office last summer.

Segni became interested in law, farming, and politics at an early age. After completing his course in law, he spent a number of years teaching that subject in Italian schools and universities. He also took an active part in managing his family's farms, and in public affairs. He became an important leader of the Christian Democratic Party after World War II.

Segni is a staunch supporter of reform movements. Though once a large landowner himself, he initiated plans, while serving as Minister of Agriculture between 1946 and 1951, to split up large estates and divide the land among the poor.

President's Decision

President Eisenhower may have already announced his decision on whether or not he will run for a second term by the time this paper reaches its readers. The Chief Executive has said he will tell about his plans for the 1956 election contest not later than March 1.

Earlier this month, as all of us know, doctors who examined the President announced that he has made

a good recovery from his heart attack of last September. Heart specialist Dr. Paul Dudley White, who has been medical adviser to Eisenhower since he was stricken about 5 months ago, says the Chief Executive has recovered his health sufficiently to carry on his Presidential duties for another 5 to 10 years.

Last week, leaders of both political parties were awaiting word of the President's decision. The Chief Executive, meanwhile, was vacationing in Georgia.

Lobbying Probes

Should we strengthen our laws governing lobbyists who try to get support for their ideas in Congress? 'Yes," say Democratic Senator John Kennedy of Massachusetts and other lawmakers. Senator Kennedy has introduced a bill to limit lobbyist spending and to curb other activities of groups trying to get Congress to enact measures in which they have an

At present, lobbyists are supposed to register with Congress, and report on how much they spend in their effort to influence decisions of the lawmakers. But a number of lobbying groups have failed to register, and it is difficult to keep tabs on lobbyist spending under existing laws.

A committee headed by Senator Kennedy plans to probe lobbying activities next month. Other Senate groups, meanwhile, have already begun to investigate the same matter. New probes into lobbying were touched off earlier this month when it became apparent that sizable sums of money were spent in the effort to influence legislation involving federal controls on natural gas production.

Immigration Proposals

Congress is now going over President Eisenhower's proposed changes in the McCarran-Walter immigration law, which governs the admission of foreigners to our shores.

Among other things, the President is calling for (1) the relaxation of rules which now require all nonofficial foreign visitors to the United States to be fingerprinted; and (2) changes in our quota system so that an additional 65,000 persons a year could be admitted to the country.

(Under the quota system, certain

countries are permitted to send a limited number of immigrants to our shores each year. The quota is based on the proportion of that country's people to our total population in 1920.)

President Eisenhower also wants Congress to make an over-all study of our immigration policies. He feels that other changes, in addition to those he has suggested, ought to be made in our rules on immigration.

Many congressmen say they favor the White House immigration proposals. But some lawmakers argue that the President's suggestions don't go far enough in relaxing our rules for admitting foreigners. Other legislators, meanwhile, contend that no changes at all are needed in the McCarran-Walter law.

"People's Capitalism"

For many years now, Moscow has been telling the world that America is a land where "the rich get richer, and the poor become poorer." We feel that the Russian propaganda about us is silly. But many people in Asian lands and elsewhere, who aren't familiar with conditions in America, believe the Red statements.

Our latest effort to give other people a better picture of life in America is a special exhibit now being sent overseas by the United States Information Agency. Called "People's Capitalism," the exhibit shows how the average American family lives, plays, and worships.

The exhibit includes a 5-room dwelling priced at \$14,000, stocked with such devices as refrigerators and washing machines, which are found in a typical American worker's home. In

the garage there is a medium-priced

The exhibit also includes charts and photographs giving facts about Americans. These point out, for instance, that a great many Americans are "capitalists" because 70,000,000 of them have savings accounts, 115,000,-000 own life insurance policies, and 7,000,000 of them own shares in America's industrial enterprises.

Moscow's Plans

It may be some time before we know the full significance of the February meeting of Russia's only political organization-the Communist Party. The parley, which opened earlier this month, was the first of its kind since October 1952.

Communist Party leaders from all over the Soviet Union, its satellites, and from countries on this side of the Iron Curtain went to Moscow for the get-together. There, they applauded and approved plans made by party bosses in the Soviet capital.

Party boss Nikita Khrushchev, in his keynote speech, called for friendlier relations between Russia and the western nations. He also said that war between communist and free countries is "not inevitable." But the Red boss added that Russia will continue to use means short of war to spread communism throughout the world.

Many observers feel that the Red get-together was held chiefly (1) to launch a new Soviet "peace offensive" in an effort to get the free world to let down its guard; and (2) to give communist agents everywhere a blueprint of action to weaken democratic



IN HOLLAND (the Netherlands), skaters glide past a picturesque windmill in a 40-mile run over one of the many frozen canals

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FRANCE'S PREMIER, Guy Mollet, urges closer ties with other democracies in a speech to the National Assembly

countries and to arouse distrust proposal to get it approved by Conamong the free nations.

Meanwhile, not long ago Moscow called home its envoys to London, Paris, Washington, and other western capitals. The Red ambassadors, it is believed, were given new instructions in line with decisions made at the Communist Party meeting.

Trouble in Spain

Spain has been under the rule of General Francisco Franco for some 16 years now. During that time, no opposition group has been permitted to exist there.

In recent weeks, there have been rumblings of discontent in Franco's Spain, particularly among some Spanish college students. Recently, riots broke out between student supporters of Franco and those opposed to his government.

The Spanish government is taking firm action to deal with its critics. For the next 2 months, police have been empowered to arrest any individual suspected of anti-government activities without issuing formal charges against him. Also, a person is no longer permitted to change his residence without police permission.

Observers are now wondering if the student demonstrations mean trouble for the Franco regime in the months to come. Some people, including members of the Spanish government, contend that the riots were "communist-inspired" and will disappear when the agitators are locked up. But other observers believe that the student demonstrations represent growing dis-satisfaction with "dictatorial government."

Gas Bill Veto

About 10 days ago, President Eisenhower vetoed the Harris-Fulbright bill providing for an end to federal controls on natural gas production. The President, in explaining his action, said he supports the aim of the measure. But he vetoed the bill, he declared, because of the reports of "questionable methods" used by some supporters of the Harris-Fulbright

A two-thirds vote in each house of Congress is needed to approve a bill vetoed by the President. Because supporters of the Harris-Fulbright bill don't feel they can get that many lawmakers behind their proposal, they are thinking of introducing a new similar measure some time in the future.

At a Glance

Europe is striving to recover from its worst winter in a century. Icy winds and heavy snows caused some 700 deaths on the continent and in Britain. Snow and freezing weather reached as far south as sunny Italy and normally warm North Africa.

India's Prime Minister Nehru appears to be getting more critical of the communists all the time. During a recent political get-together in India, he said that Indian Reds talk of peace but use violence to get their

way. He also accused the communists of trying to force outdated and useless ideas, which can't solve presentday problems, on India and other lands

Foreign students and teachers studying in American schools and universities now add up to more than 40 .-000 visitors-a record number. They have come from 129 foreign countries and territories. Nearly a third of the visitors are from Japan, the Philippines, and other Far East and Asian lands. A fourth of the visitors are Latin Americans. The remainder are from Europe, Africa, and various other parts of the globe.

Many Americans, meanwhile, are attending schools in other lands.

Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, next week's major articles will deal with (1) lobbying, and (2) Southeast Asia and the SEATO meeting in Pakistan.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Irritable debater: There are 2 sides to every question, you know.
Opponent: Yes-yours and the wrong

Professor: This examination will be conducted on the honor system. Please take seats 3 apart and in alternate rows.

"Am I glad to see you!"

"Halt!" cried the young rookie on his

first sentry-go. The major halted.
"Halt!" cried the rookie again.
"I've halted," snapped the major.
"Well," explained the rookie, "in the manual, it says, 'Say halt 3 times, then shoot!"

Corporal: The captain was quite provoked this morning. Sergeant: What about?

Corporal: He received a letter marked

Sue: Call for me tonight at eight sharp. Bob: O. K. What time'll you be ready?

Cross-examiner lawyer: Now you still maintain that the prisoner is the man you saw stealing your car? Plaintiff: After arguing with you for

half an hour, I don't believe I ever had

Guest: Now don't trouble to see us to the door.

Hostess: Oh, it's no trouble-it's a pleasure.

SPORTS

WILL Russia triumph in next fall's track-and-field Olympic competition as she recently did in the winter Olympics? There has been a good deal of speculation on this question in recent weeks.

In this connection, it is interesting to compare the best performances of American and Soviet athletes in 1955 in track-and-field events. The records indicate that in 24 different events in which men Olympic performers compete, U.S. athletes did better last year in 14. The Russians were superior in In 2 events, performances were about the same.

Among women athletes, the picture is different. Of 7 events in which women customarily take part, Russian women last year turned in better marks in 5 than did Americans.

Of course, this comparison does not "prove" anything about the outcome of next fall's Olympics. An athlete's performances often differ from year to year, and new outstanding runners and jumpers are always appearing on the athletic scene. Moreover, athletes from other lands besides the United States and Russia will have much to say about the outcome of the autumn games. Nonetheless, with last year's performances as a guide, it seems fair to conclude that the U.S. men's team and the Soviet women's team will probably be top favorities to win trackand-field Olympic honors at Melbourne.

Is Dave Sime of Duke University the world's fastest runner? If he isn't right now, say a good number of track experts, he will be soon. Sime (whose name rhymes with Jim) has been outracing many of the nation's top sprinters this winter, even though this is only his second year of track activity. He is an excellent prospect for the U. S. Olympic team.

Dave was a great athlete in high school at Fair Lawn, New Jersey, He



DAVE SIME, Duke's sprint star

played basketball, baseball, and football-but never tried out for track. He first took it up at Duke as a means of keeping in shape for baseball, his favorite sport. Failure to get off the mark quickly is his only weakness, but track experts say that experience will cure this trouble.

The most popular sports in Italy (see page 1 article) are soccer, cycling, and fencing. During the 1930's Italy's national soccer team was undefeated for 31/2 years in international competition. -By HOWARD SWEET

SHAPED LIKE A BIG BOOT, Italy reaches southward from central Europe for about 700 miles

Italy's Problems

(Continued from page 1)

To repair this damage was a tremendous task. With U.S. help, Italy did the job. We spent more than 3 billion dollars to help her recover from the conflict. But underlying the war devastation was an even tougher problem, one with which her leaders are still grappling. It is the problem of too many people with too few re-

About 48,000,000 people live in this narrow nation stretching for 700 miles from the towering Alps to the island of Sicily at the toe of the "boot." Total area is about the size of Georgia and Florida combined. Whereas our nation has about 56 people to the square mile, that Mediterranean land has about 415. How this dense population can make a living is the most serious problem confronting the Italian government.

About 4 out of every 10 Italians make a living from farming, although less than half of the country is suitable for crop raising. The spiny Appenine Mountains run the length of the peninsula and greatly reduce the amount of farm land. In northern Italy's Po Valley are fertile fields, but elsewhere there are many marshes and arid wastelands.

The crop land is divided among many farmers. Only about 1 out of 10 has more than 12 acres of land, and over half of the farm population has less than 1 acre per family to cultivate. Even with intensive cultivation, the farmers cannot supply enough food for the country.

With not enough crop land, Italy has to turn to industry as a major means of supporting its people. But big industrial development requires iron, coal, copper, and other raw materials. Here, too, the Mediterranean land is deficient.

While small supplies of coal and iron exist, they are not large enough to supply factory needs. These minerals must be imported. Wool and cotton for the textile industry must also be brought in from the outside.

Water Power

To make up for lack of coal, the nation has harnessed the water power of its rivers and mountain streams. Italy stands high among European countries in the production of electric power. Most power plants are in the north where the big factories are concentrated. Besides being a major farming region, the Po Valley is an important industrial area.

Right now, Italy's leaders are staking their hopes for industrial progress on oil. In the past few years, petroleum has been discovered in the Po

Valley, Sicily, and several other regions. How sizable these deposits are cannot yet be determined.

Italy has big deposits of sulphur and mercury, and her marble is used in beautiful buildings all over the world. Yet, considering her limited resources, it is a wonder that she has developed such a vigorous industry. She could not have done so without trade with other lands.

Abroad Italy sells citrus fruit, sewing machines, typewriters, stylish clothing, and various kinds of cloth. Among her purchases from other nations are raw materials such as cotton, wool, petroleum, and coal. Her leading trade partners include the United States, West Germany, and Great Brit-

In her trade, Italy always buys abroad more than she sells to other lands. How to make up the deficit is another problem which, year after year, confronts the government's top

One way in which Italy tries to make up the difference between spending and selling is through the tourist trade. Close to 10,000,000 tourists, including more than 500,000 Americans, visited Italy last year. Many cities have historic and artistic interest, and there are beautiful coastal and mountain resorts. In the past 8 years, tourists have spent more than \$350,000,000 in Italy.

Each year, thousands of people visit Vatican City, the seat of the Roman Catholic Church. Though within the borders of Rome, Vatican City is actually an independent country which flies its own flag and prints its own money and stamps.

Lack of Employment

Still another problem for Italy is unemployment, resulting from the combination of too many people and too few resources. Even in good times, almost 2,000,000 Italians are without jobs. Millions more have only parttime work.

In an Italian family, it is not at all uncommon for 1 person to be supporting himself, wife and children, and several other adult relatives who cannot find work. Lack of jobs tends to keep wages down, too, as there are always several people ready to take over any job which becomes available. Industrial workers average from \$2 to $$2\frac{1}{2}$ a day, while many farm workers receive only about half that much.

To reduce unemployment, the government plans a big outlay on farm lands, power plants, and construction Italy's top men aim to create 4,000,000 new jobs. Among other things, the government hopes to supply good living quarters for millions now living in crowded tenements, 1room huts, and even in caves.

Special attention will be paid to southern Italy where poverty is widespread. The government has been breaking up big estates there to help poor, landless farmers. The government pays the owners for the land, and the farmers who settle on it are



PIAZZA VENEZIA is one of the most famous squares in Rome, Italy's capital

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given 30 years to repay the government.

Another way of relieving unemployment is through emigration. In recent years, many Italians have moved to Argentina, Canada, and Brazil. The United States formerly admitted many Italians, but our present immigration laws now drastically limit the number of newcomers to our shores.

Earlier this month President Eisenhower asked Congress to change the law to admit more people from southern Europe, including Italy. The possibility of our accepting more Italians may be one of the subjects which Eisenhower and Gronchi will examine.

The 2 leaders will undoubtedly discuss defense cooperation between their nations. Italy is a fellow member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), set up to defend western Europe against the communist threat. In case of a Red attack, Italy's troops would fight beside ours, and Italy could supply airfields only a few hours' flying time from the Soviet Union. Today we have troops stationed in northern Italy and a big supply base at Leghorn.

Another subject which will probably be discussed by the 2 chief executives is Italy's communist problem. This southern European nation has the strongest Communist Party in any country not under Red control. Italy's communists hold a third of the seats in parliament. They are no longer quite so much of a threat, though, as



DRAWN FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSO

they were a few years ago. Italy's government has taken vigorous action to curb them, and Prime Minister Antonio Segni says they are no longer in a position to seize power by force.

What some Americans fear, however, is that the Reds may still achieve part of their aims by encouraging Italy to slide into the neutral group of nations. Some Italians, while anticommunist, are quite critical of U.S. policy. They feel that Italy should have more influence in NATO affairs, and favor admitting Red China to the United Nations.

If these feelings should spread, Italy might veer away from us and either withdraw from NATO or become an ineffective member. We do not want either to happen. We are convinced that Italy can be a strong influence for stability in the critical Mediterranean area where serious troubles are being encountered by 2 of our other allies—Great Britain (in Cyprus) and France (in North Africa).

We also feel that Italy, as a newly admitted member to the United Nations, will now be able to play a much more important role in world affairs in general. We are convinced that continued close cooperation between our countries is necessary. That point will certainly be stressed this week in the talks between Eisenhower and Gronchi. —By HOWARD SWEET



THIS BLOOD BANK in a South Viet Nam hospital helps save many lives

Troubles of Viet Nam

Will This Asian Country Remain Divided?

HAT'S happening in Viet Nam today? In July of 1954, at the end of an 8-year-old war between native communists and French forces, both sides agreed to a temporary partition of Viet Nam along the 17th parallel, or latitude. Since then, the territory to the north of that line—60,000 square miles with about 13,000,000 people—has been ruled by the communists. The land to the south—65,000 square miles and a population of 11,000,000, including 860,000 refugees from the north—has been free to govern itself.

It was also decided in 1954 that a vote would be held by July 1956, for the people to decide whether they wish to unite under communist or free rule.

Up to now, President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Viet Nam has refused to agree to such a plan. South Viet Nam did not sign the 1954 agreement, and Diem does not believe that elections held by the communists would be free.

Ngo Dinh Diem has been president of South Viet Nam since last October, when the area was proclaimed a republic. He succeeded Bao Dai, whose official title was Emperor. Since Bao Dai has been replaced, the people of South Viet Nam have become more united, but Diem still has a big job ahead to solve the social, political, and economic problems confronting the land.

The people of South Viet Nam will go to the polls again next Sunday, March 4, to choose a national assembly. President Diem will then submit a constitution to the assembly for ap-

proval. If this group of lawmakers fails to ratify the constitution, the document will be voted on directly by the people.

History. Until recent years, most of what is now Viet Nam was controlled by France. The first French contacts with the Viet Namese were established through missionaries in the late 16th century. A series of treaties extended France's influence until, by the end of the 19th century, much of the territory was under her control.

During this period, the area was divided into a number of small states. They were not united into a single country until World War II, when Japan occupied the separate states and unified them under her control. After Japan lost the war, the consolidated Viet Nam became a member of the Associated States of Indochina and the French Union.

Immediately after this, many of the people were determined to gain their complete independence from France. They achieved this after the 8-year war that broke out in 1946. As a result, however, the communists, who led the fight for independence, gained control of northern Viet Nam.

The Country. North and South Viet Nam together have an area about equal to the state of New Mexico. Over 80 per cent of the people are Mongolians of Chinese background and Buddhist religion.

The people are concentrated in the river deltas and along the narrow coastal plains. Most of them are farmers, growing rice on small plots or working on rubber, tea, or coffee plantations. The country's hot, humid climate is good for these crops.

Fishing is an important industry along the coasts. In the south, small factories and mills process lumber and agricultural products for export. Some coal, tin, and other mining is carried on in the north.

About half of the country's 18,000 miles of roads are dirt, and cannot be used by cars during the rainy season. Rivers and canals are an important means of transport.

The principal city in South Viet Nam is Saigon, the capital. Together with Cholon and its other suburban areas, Saigon has a population close to 2 million. The capital of North Viet Nam is Hanoi, with about 250,000 persons.

—By Victor Block



DRAWN FOR AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSO

LAOS, Cambodia, and South Viet Nam are free nations. Communists hold North Viet Nam.

Are You Tactful?

By Clay Coss

HERE is a story that you may or may not have heard:

One of the guests at a party turned to a man by his side to criticize the singing of the woman who was trying to entertain them.

"What a terrible voice! Do you know who she is?"

"Yes," was the answer. "She's my wife."

"Oh, I beg your pardon! Of course, it isn't her voice, really. It's the stuff she has to sing. I wonder who wrote that awful song."

"I did," was the reply.

This is intended as humor, but the tactless individual whom it portrays is, in reality, all too common to be funny. Such persons go thoughtlessly about their way, saying whatever comes to their mind without thinking, and constantly making remarks which hurt the feelings of others.

Jack, for example, makes the sweeping statement that all politicians are crooked, and afterwards learns that Jim, one of those present when the remark was made, is the son of a congressman.

Myra brags to a group of girls about having been asked by three boys to go to the school dance. One of the girls, Joan, can't go to the dance because no one has invited her.

Bob shows his straight-A report card to Fred—without first finding out that Fred has failed one subject and done poorly in two others.

Betty is constantly talking about



The girl speaking temporarily forgets that one of the others was not invited

her family's new cars and other expensive possessions despite the fact that the parents of several of her friends cannot afford such luxuries.

The tactless person can bring heartaches to others and unhappiness to himself. If one is consistently thoughtless of the feelings and sensibilities of others, he is bound to lose friends and make enemies.

It has been said that the lack of tact is often "fatal to the best of talents." However much ability a person may have, he cannot be effective—cannot make the contribution of which he is capable—if he is always offending others by his ill-considered remarks.

If one wishes to associate smoothly and agreeably with others, he must think about the comments he makes. He must try to consider in advance what the effects of his words or acts may be. Even while doing this, he is bound to say the wrong thing occasionally. Nevertheless, he will offend others far less frequently if he thinks before he speaks than if he just blurts out the first words that come into his mind.

Career for Tomorrow - - - Jobs for Women

F you are a young woman who wants to begin your working career as soon as you finish high school, you may want to become a telephone operator. No preliminary training is required in this field. The duties can be learned while on the job.

Your duties, if you choose this vocation, will be varied. There are 3 kinds of operators employed by the telephone companies. They are (1) local operators, who complete local calls; (2) information operators, who answer queries about numbers not listed in the telephone book and give out other related information; and (3) long distance operators, who handle calls between cities.

Each position has its own particular duties. But in general, the operators respond to signals on the switchboard that tell them someone wants to

You can advance to such positions as service representative, supervisor, or chief operator. The service representative deals with customers, at a desk or over the telephone, to help

A VISITOR to Rome, Naples, Verona, Padua, or one of the

many other famous Italian cities can

see relics that tell of a glorious past.

Ruins of ancient Roman temples, aque-

ducts, and highways are constant re-

minders that present-day Italy was the center of the once powerful Ro-

Despite its ancient history, Italy as

we know it today is less than 100 years

old. It wasn't until 1870 that the

Italian peninsula became united into

a single country, after it had been divided into numerous little king-

doms, independent cities, and colonies

of neighboring nations for centuries.

Men who helped unite Italy include

the colorful Giuseppe Garibaldi, hon-

ored by many Italians as "the father

Italy, when it became a united

country, copied the British form of

government. It had a king who pos-

sessed little power. The people elected

members to the parliament, and these

lawmakers, in turn, chose a premier

who served as the nation's chief

But long-standing differences be-

tween Italians from various parts of

the peninsula made it hard for rep-

resentative government to work in

sprang up. They differed sharply

over how the country should be gov-

erned. Hence, it was difficult for Italy to solve its biggest problems—

By the time World War I broke out

in 1914, Italy was making some prog-

ress in increasing its food production.

Also, large numbers of Italians were

moving to new homes in the United

States and elsewhere, thus leaving

unemployment and food shortages.

Numerous political parties

man Empire.

of their country.'

executive.

them with problems connected with the service. A chief operator or supervisor is in charge of a central office and may supervise the work of as many as 200 or more employes.

The top positions in a telephone company generally go to people who have started at the bottom. Because of this policy of promotion from



TELEPHONE operator at her switchboard handles a long-distance call

within, your chances of moving into a responsible position are good.

Job opportunities for operators are to be good for some time to come. Despite the growing use of dial phones for long distance as well as for local calls, there are still numerous openings for trained operators. They must be on hand to put through calls when the dial system

fails, answer calls for information, and perform many other duties.

In addition to working for the telephone company, skilled operators are employed by offices, hotels, apartment buildings, hospitals, and numerous other places having switchboards. Employes of these firms often serve as receptionists, take care of mail, or perform other duties in addition to their work on the switchboard.

Your earnings will compare favorably with those of other persons doing jobs requiring similar training and Wages vary with responsibility. length of service and from place to The national average for place. switchboard operators is about \$65 a week.

Advantages include (1) jobs are plentiful; (2) there are good opportunities for advancement; and (3) telephone companies offer such benefits as vacations with pay, health insurance, retirement pensions, and various plans to help employes save.

The chief disadvantage is that employes of telephone companies are often required to work at night and on holidays and Sundays. Telephone service is continuous, so companies must always have operators on duty. On the other hand, you will receive extra pay for the night, holiday, and Sunday work.

Further information can be secured from your nearby telephone company By ANTON BERLE

had 5 different premiers and cabinets.

arm type of government, gained a siz-

able following with his promise of

fascists were unable to win control of

Italy's government at the polls. So, on the night of October 27, 1922, Mus-

solini and a band of his followers

Opponents of fascism were unable

to patch up their quarrels long enough

to stop Mussolini. The fascists marched into the Italian capital un-

opposed, and Mussolini became pre-

In fascist Italy, as in communist

Russia today, the people were forced

to spend much of their time and energy

turning out arms in preparation for

wars of conquest. Mussolini increased

his holdings by conquering the African

kingdom of Ethiopia in the mid-1930's.

But the

Mussolini, who advocated a strong-

Story of Italy

"jobs and food for all."

launched a "march on Rome."

mier and dictator.

News Quiz

Guided Missiles

- 1. What countries used missiles in World War II?
- 2. Briefly describe at least 2 modern issiles now available to our military
- 3. What are the main advantages long-range missiles in comparison with present-day jet bombers?
- 4. Give arguments used by critics who feel that our government is not pushing ahead fast enough in the missile race.
- 5. How do President Eisenhower and his supporters reply?
- 6. Within the Defense Department, is there full agreement as to how the mis-sile development program should be car-ried out?
- 7. Tell about some of the important technical problems that confront the sci-entists and engineers who are working on long-range guided missiles.

Discussion

On the basis of your present knowledge, do you think our government should concentrate more heavily on missile development than it is now doing? Why, or why not?

Our Ally-Italy

- 1. What visitor from Italy will President Eisenhower receive this week?
- 2. Describe some of the favorable eco-omic developments of the past year in Italy.
- 3. How do incomes compare in Italy and the United States?
- 4. Why can't Italy's farmers supply nough food for their country?
- Describe Italian industry and the problems confronting it.
- 6. In what ways is the government trying to relieve unemployment?
- 7. How do Italy and the United States cooperate on defense matters?
- 8. To what extent is communism inside Italy a problem?

Discussion

- 1. Do you think the aid we have given Italy since World War II has been justi-fied by the results obtained? Why, or why not?
- How do you think we can most effectively help Italy to be a strong de-fense ally? Explain.

Miscellaneous

- 1. What posts do Giovanni Gronchi and Antonio Segni hold in Italy?
- 2. Why do Senator John Kennedy and some other lawmakers want to strengthen our laws governing lobbyists?
- 3. What changes does President Eisenhower want Congress to make in our immigration laws?
- Explain the purpose of our "Peo-ple's Capitalism" exhibit.
- 5. What appears to have been the purposes of the February meeting of Russia's Communist Party?
- For what reason did President Eisenhower veto the Harris-Fulbright natural gas bill?
- 7. What conflicting opinions have been ven as to the reasons for recent riots Spain?
- 8. When did modern Italy become a united country?

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"Rocket City, U. S. A.," Newsweek, January 30, 1956.

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Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (b) stated positively; 2. (d) formal and legal; 3. (a) 3 parties; 4. (c) correct; 5. (a) force and beat; 6. (c) bitterness and ill will; 7. (d) complete failure; 8. (a) power.

Historical Background - - more food and jobs for those who re-

mained at home.

The Italians at first stayed out of World War I even though they had a defense agreement with Germany. But, in 1915. Italy entered the war on the side of Britain and France largely because of a feud she had been carrying on with Germany's ally, Austria, over border provinces.

The war cost Italy many lives and put the country heavily in debt. When the fighting was over, returning soldiers couldn't find jobs. Many people in the crowded cities were hungry. Because of their troubles, some Italians turned to communism. Others joined another extremist movement, called fascism, led by Benito Mussolini.

Italy's government, meanwhile, was unable to solve the country's many problems. Premiers came into office and, before long, were forced to re-Between 1919 and 1922, Italy



GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI He fought hard for Italian liberty

Later, he also took over Italy's tiny neighbor, Albania. During this time, fascist Italy and nazi Germany became partners. Mussolini brought his country into World War II on the German side in 1940. But 3 years later, when Italy was being invaded by Allied forces, the fascist dictator was overthrown and put to death. Then, fascism crumbled. After the war, the Italians organized

a new government along the same lines that they had before Mussolini took over, except this time they didn't have a king. They have since become western defense partners. Italy is still grappling with such long-range probas hunger and unemployment, and the communists are trying their best to destroy democracy again (see page 1 story).

-By ANTON BERLE

make a call. They then stay with the call until it is satisfactorily completed, and make whatever records are needed in connection with the call. Your qualifications should include a pleasant voice, a courteous manner, and a pleasing personality. Operators must also be dependable, alert, and conscientious. A quick-thinking operator can, at times, save a life or help someone who is in trouble.